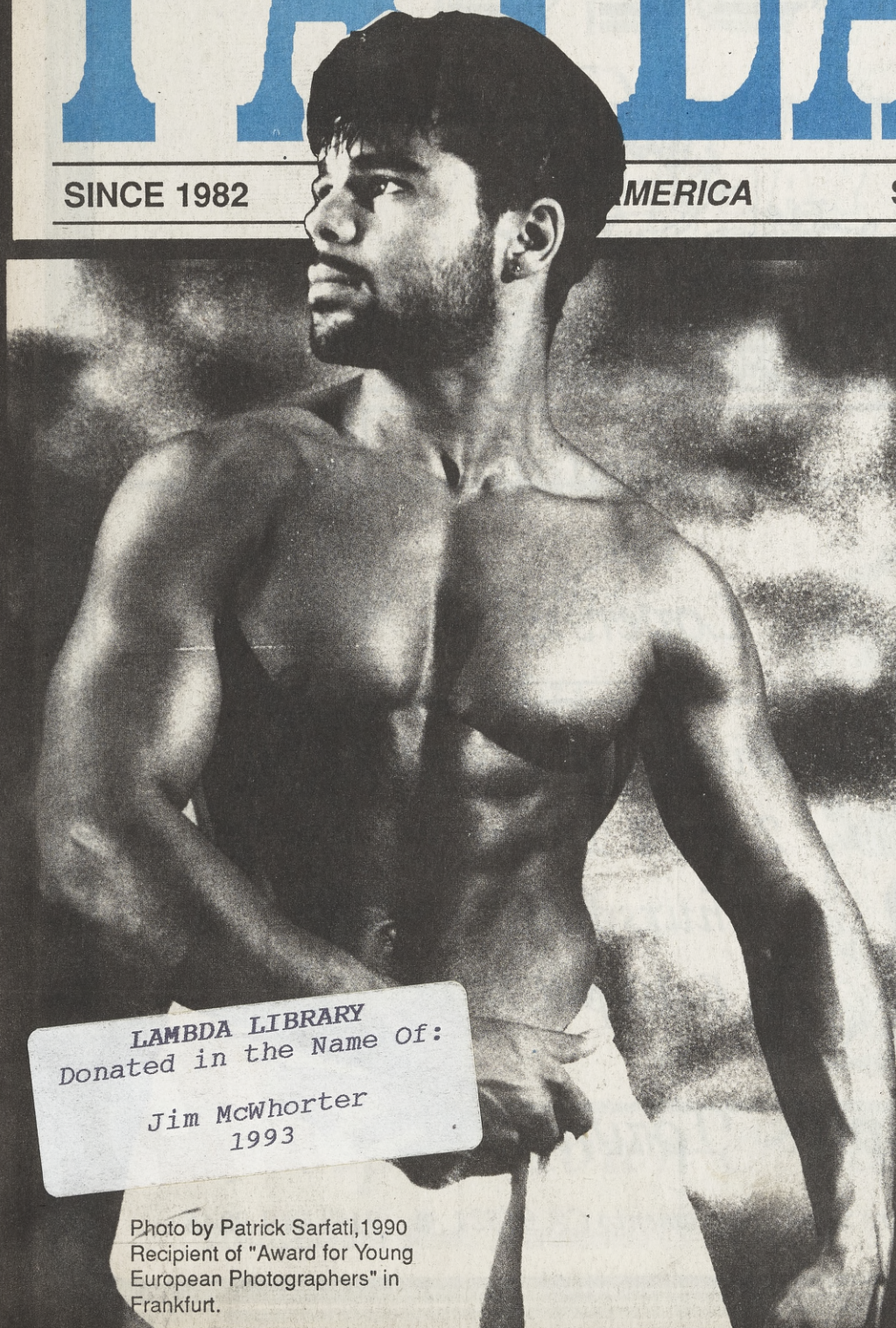


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ISSUE #100**



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# AN OPEN LETTER TO A CLOSED MIND

by Nancy Lyn Define

Do me a favor. Please. Don't pick me out of the crowd at the bar in order to subject me to a twenty minute dissertation on how you're 'REALLY' not gay, just confused.' Frankly, Mr. Macho, I don't give a damn. And stop glancing over my shoulder. I doubt very much the 'home spotter' task force is sneaking around with hidden cameras. Look, it isn't that I don't enjoy talking with new people. It's just that I don't particularly care to talk to you.

So PLEASE don't tell me how your family would just die if they even suspected you might be...well, you know. Those of us who are openly gay don't have the slightest notion of the fears and anxieties associated with coming out to parents. We weren't born and raised in the traditional manner. We just sprang up, fully grown, in cabbage patches.

And please don't think you're complimenting me when you say I don't 'look like one.' I find that comment not only offensive, but incredibly stupid. Despite your misconceptions, you can't usually 'spot one of us a mile away.' And this habit you have of smugly looking around the bar and picking out four or five people you don't find attractive, then referring to them as faggots, bulldykes and disgusting queers with whom you will NOT be identified is almost as repulsive as you are. THEY are not the reason you can't come out of the closet (although you may be a reason for them to consider going back in). Are you always this obnoxious? Or do gay atmospheres just bring out the best in you?

Look, I'm not a bad person. And I don't go out very often. So when I do, PLEASE stop telling me all about that old queen in the corner who won't stop cruising you. First of all, he's NOT even looking at you. He's cruising that cute guy standing a couple of feet in back of you. Actually, no offense (well, maybe a little), but I don't see one person in this whole place paying the least bit of attention to you. But then you're REALLY not gay, anyway.

And stop snickering at my bottom. If you haven't seen one before then you must be either illiterate or unable to afford a radio or TV. If you have, and you think pink triangles are funny, maybe you should consider joining up with Lyndon LaRouche. An don't you dare cop a condescending attitude about those of us with AIDs or HIV positive blood. Honey, you have a disease much more deadly.

While I'm at it, don't bother telling me twenty minutes into your monologue that you lied to me about your REAL name. I have no problem with that. I can think of lots of things to call you. And no, I certainly do not know anyone who would be interested in being your date for a family wedding or the office Christmas party. Personally, I'd rather be forced to have sex with Anita Bryant.

Now how did I already know that you campaigned for Bushy and Quayle? And that you're a registered Republican? Go figure. But please don't refer to yourself as an enlightened conservative. That's an oxymoron. Try pompous ass.

If I hear you say 'what I do in the privacy of my bedroom is nobody's business and I don't intend to shout it to the world' one more time, I'll seriously consider taking a picture of you

SEE CLOSED MIND... page 28

## PATLAR

*Voice of Gay America*  
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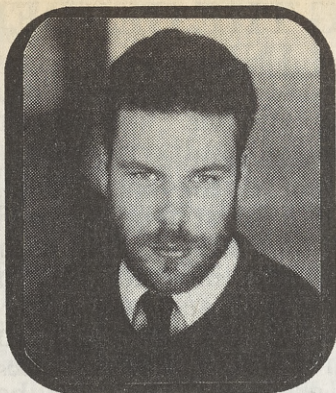
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## In My Opinion

by Mel Dahl

On paper, Islam is a beautiful religion. The Koran talks about how God dwells, not in religious buildings, but in the hearts of those who honor him. It says that salvation comes through faith in the God of Abraham, and that man's obligations in their entirety can be summed up in loving God and doing justice to other people. In sum, there are large sections of the Koran that read like something Isaiah or James could have written.

The question, then, is how this wonderful religion, founded on concepts such as justice and respect for other people, has become the monster now threatening to throttle the Middle East. How did the same faith that produced that man of peace, Anwar Sadat, also give us the Ayatollah and the current president of Iraq?

Spilling blood in the name of God is not new. Indeed, the imams now running Iran are basically behaving the same way the Middle Ages popes behave (and, to be utterly truthful, would probably still behave if not politically unspeakable). Nor has Judaism been free from such abuses: Joshua's wholesale slaughter of the Canaanites and Saul's mass murder of the Amalekites—to say nothing of the current mistreatment of Palestinians—were despicable.

The question, phrased another way, is: Why does religion, which in theory is supposed to promote good conduct and fair treatment of others, have a nasty tendency to become a force for evil and suffering? How did the disciples of the ethical Old Testament prophets, the meek and gentle Jesus of Nazareth and the justice-loving prophet Mohammed ever manage to twist and pervert their teachings into grotesque and obscene calls for bloodshed?

There are two factors which come into play here, and if we are ever going to live in a world free from religious bloodbaths, both need to be addressed.

Kuwait is a truly beautiful country, and the two times I have been there I received nothing but kindness from my Arab hosts. Watching the news broadcasts of the invading Iraqi armies, I felt like a dear friend was being raped.

Please See OPINION . . . Page 26

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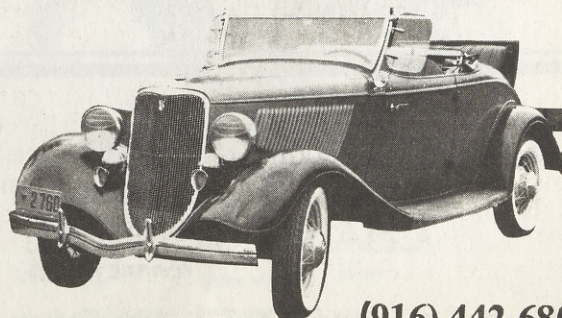
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## CROSSING THE GENDER LINE

by Kathryn Otter

Sometimes I just confuse people. The sales clerk stares at me. "What can I do for you, ma'am... uh.. sir...? I just look at him. Most people don't have his confusion. I'm pretty easy to spot as being transsexual. It's a curious thing, to gauge other people's reactions, and to see how I am perceived. A lot of times it's the late night cabbies that I have to be careful of. It always seems that they're the first to grab me ("Yo, baby-baby") precisely when I'm in the mood to deck them for invading my space.

I was told by a friend (who had her surgery years ago) that the first time a guy grabbed her tush she considered it a complement. Maybe for her—she like straight men. I can't deal with them. The notion of being treated as an object placed on this planet solely for their pleasure galls me to no end. I like women. It definitely makes life interesting, to be a pro-operative transsexual and to be a lesbian. But not as uncommon as people may think.

In the last year, since I have come out as being transsexual, I have met quite a few lesbians who have had gender corrective surgery. They are going on with life, and generally, if they don't mention that they are transsexual nobody thinks a thing of it. They "pass."

I choose not to pass. I am personally proud for living through 23 years of being a little girl and then a young woman and being told throughout that time that I was male. It's a hell of a life to survive, and I see no reason to deny what I am or to be ashamed of a defect in my genetics that I had no control over. The only way out of the trap in which society places a transsexual person is to be loud and proud of who we are, and so I am. I refuse to be told that I am not what I am, which is a woman.

Nontranssexual women are often called "real" and "biological" women. This implies that I am somehow fake. But just as some women are born sterile from a defect on one area of the gene code, there are some women born with the wrong primary genitals due to a defect in another area. Same problem, different placement.

Like most kids, I was trained from day one to obey my parents, and to not obey them made me "bad." After years of having masculinity thrust on me by my parents, the guilt and shame from denying it was devastating. I am going against them by acknowledging and dealing with my transsexuality. I am being "bad." This is not uncommon, and dealing with one's parents is a difficult issue for most transsexuals (and most lesbians and gay men in general). I just told mine, in no uncertain terms, what I am and what I am doing to correct the mistakes of my body. They did not handle it well. We find it easier to communicate by phone, not in person.



I often feel that the only other people that have a problem with my transition are in the lesbian and gay community. Some men say they "can't imagine why I would possibly want to do this to myself," and offer their opinion that I am involved in self-mutilation. There are women who act as if I am an intruder into a club of some sort. But I must either accept what I am and get on with my life, or I'd probably be successful at another of the suicide attempts that I made when I was younger and did not understand a lot about transsexuality. Even so, people still get upset with me and act in a bigoted way.

I am presently going through therapy and huge dosages of hormones. To put it paradoxically: I am what I am becoming. No person, sane or insane, would put up with the day-to-day bullshit that I deal with just because he has a preference for skirts over three-piece suits. My need is not to look sweet and soft and to be Donna Reed, but to get my body to be my body and to feel something besides numb. And numbness is a pretty easy way to go when you don't understand why your body just is not right, but you know that it isn't.

I turned my feelings off to the issue for a long time and tried to survive by acting male. I tried all kinds of personas. I was a biker, a Dead had, a gay male, a straight male, a jock, a prep, a junkie; you name it. None worked. I had to stop denying the truth that I knew but did not want to speak of. It took me sticking a shotgun in my mouth before I would recognize that the time was now to deal with myself. It was only then that I began to get some peace in my life. I knew the struggle was over, and I had won: I would be me.

I realized that my sex has nothing to do with my sexuality. I had always sexually lived through the bodies of my girlfriends because I was too numb to experience it myself. I'm also not equipped to enjoy genital sex. What use does a lesbian have for a penis? Not much, so the woman I date and I sexually concentrate on their parts of my body and we don't let two inches of nonfunctioning flesh get in the way of a really good relationship.

I am learning to live my life as I choose. This is my reality, and there are days that I am happy to be living. A year ago I did not expect to be speaking publicly about being a transsexual woman. But I am gradually realizing that there are things I have learned, that I have seen, that I never would have if I was not who and what I am. For today, I can live with my life just as it is, and I thank the Goddesses for that.

(Kathryn Otter is an AIDS and trans-sexual activist living in New York.)

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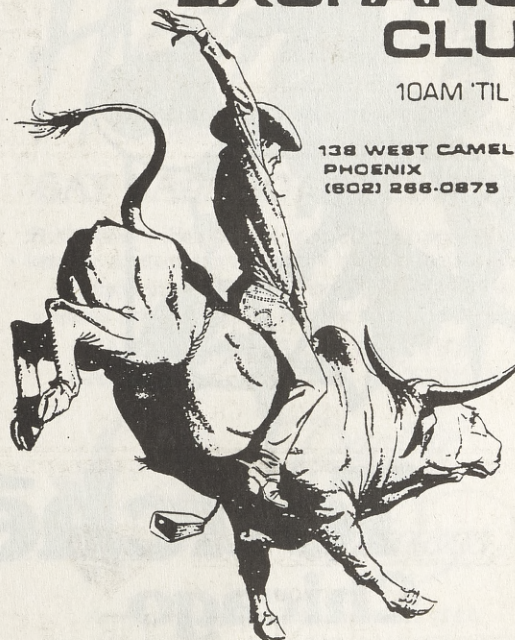
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## LUST

BY Ralph Walker

A friend asked whether I could help her distinguish between lust and love. I promised to try.

To begin with, love and lust are not opposites. Lust is merely a component of a larger human experience called love. Yet there is a need to sort out the elements of what I think my friend meant, that is, pure lust, and love.

Webster says love is affection based on admiration or benevolence while lust is an intense sexual desire. So our first distinction is that lust is explicitly sexual while love is a broader and more benevolent energy. Yet love may, and probably should, include sexual desire and fulfillment. Love has the qualities of largess, openness, caring, trust and respect. Lust finds no need for any of these; it single-mindedly pursues one goal: the immediate gratification of sexual need.

St. Paul wrote that love is kind, envieth not, vaunteth not itself, is not "puffed up." It does not behave unseemly...is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil, rejoiceth not in iniquity but in truth. It beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. It never fails...whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away, for we know in part...but when that which is perfect is come, then all that is in part shall be done away. Then we shall see face to face, and then we shall know, even as we are known. He concludes with the famous lines: "And now abideth faith, hope and love, these three; but the greatest of these is love."

Elizabeth Barrett wrote: "If thou must love me, let it be for naught except love's sake only..." for love, she knew, endures forever, while the earthly manifestations of it might "change, or be changed for thee." She seems to say that in love there is something larger than any of the particulars with which we are so frequently intrigued or absorbed in life.

Lust, on the other hand, single-mindedly focuses on a specific object (often a specific body part!). It lacks the more generalized vision that marks true love.

Lust doesn't last long. Sure, there are exceptions, but usually only where the object of its passion resists. In those cases, "conquest" becomes the ultimate goal.

In love, the would-be lover is patient and persistent. He or she is willing to allow time for the beloved to recognize and appreciate the genuineness and sincerity of his or her admiration.

Ideally, love settles on one person toward whom it displays kindness and attention. Love seeks a single and life-long other, while lust leaps from object to object, never quite satisfied since there is always a hunger for more sex, excitement and victims.

But remember, love and lust are not opposites. Often there are elements of juvenile love mixed with lust. And more important, what starts out as lust sometimes blossoms into love.



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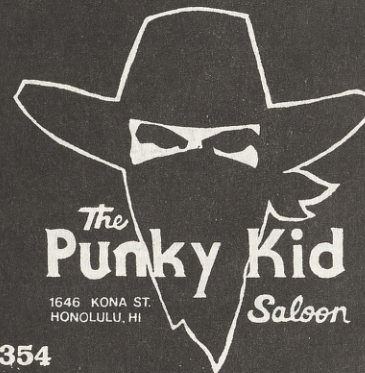
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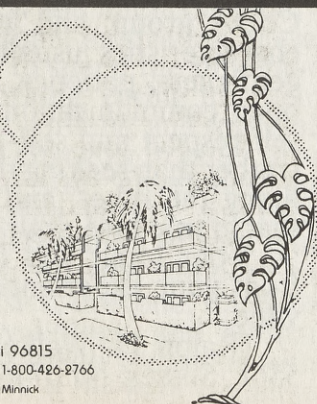
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Further, at its core love must have at least a hint of passion. This is so because it is the sexual draw, the pull of eros, which gives all love its power. It draws all of us together and brings families and societies into being. It is the fundamental ground of being for all lovers. Love is made real by that ever-recurring movement to passionate connection between two partners.

I've put together a few yes/no questions which might help you determine whether you are in love or lust.

1. Does one specific thing about him/her totally compel you?
2. Do you now have more friends than before you two first met?
3. Are you totally devastated when s/he fails to respond to your advances?
4. Has your recognition of the wonder and worth of him/her expanded through time?
5. Are you unable to contain your urgent need to be with her/him ALL the time?
6. Are you more loving of all others since knowing him/her?
7. Would you sacrifice anything just to have what you want from him/her?
8. Can you "take in stride" the other's temporary "lapses" in attention/connection?
9. Do you recognize and accept his/her limitations and deficiencies?
10. Would you still love her/him if s/he were suddenly paralyzed or physically changed?
11. Are you absolutely certain this is the one, even though you only met yesterday?
12. Do you clearly recognize "differences" between you, and do you grow from those differences?

This is simply a rough guide that may be useful to you in making distinctions between love and lust, but it's by no means definitive. It is only a first draft. You may rate your standing by counting the odd-numbered items you've answered "Yes" as indicating you are in lust, while the even-numbered ones suggest you may be experiencing love.

Since my original draft of this article, I've been impressed by the sharing of others in my CoDA group, and would add the following characteristics usually associated with love: gentleness, patience, tenderness, true caring, open communication, trust, sharing, growing self-respect and self-love, completion of self (rather than seeking that from the other), truly liking the other, and finally, the observation that in true love, your lover is your best friend!

Your input and observation and sharing from your experiences are welcome and invited.

[Ralph H. Walker's address is: P.O. Box 556P, Sussex, NJ 07461.]



## WHO SPEAKS FOR US?

BY  
Mary Smith



### WHO SPEAKS FOR US?

by Mary Smith

A frequent complaint I hear in our community occurs when our leaders speak out and are quoted in the media, gay and straight. It goes something like, "Who elected her (or him) to speak for me, anyway?" It could be a valid complaint, but there are circumstances that should be explored before we scowl in anger at those people who give of their time and energies to work on behalf of lesbians and gay men, even if sometimes they don't say what we believe.

At the risk of stating the obvious, the lesbian and gay community does not hold elections to choose who will be allowed to speak for all of us. But, there is a political mechanism in place where leadership is identified, nurtured, and sent forth to stand in front of assorted microphones where their utterances are recorded for all posterity; good, bad, or otherwise.

Our community has a great number of lesbian and gay organizations providing a variety of services, information, support groups, and businesses. For the most part, the people involved are volunteers. Nobody pays them a salary and they generally have no more personal interest in the work they choose to do than the desire to be involved and to help the cause move a little further down the road. Some people vent their anger and frustrations through these organizations; others find an outlet for their desire to nurture those in need or to associate with people like themselves who are interested in political and intellectual pursuits. Whatever the personal motivation, these are people who choose to spend the time that have left over after working, caring for their homes, friends, families, gardens, and spiritual needs, making love and engaging in other life-sustaining activities, to stuff envelopes, go door-to-door registering voters, operate phone-trees, monitor defamation of gays and lesbians in the media, provide support to people who are scared, sick, or alone; speak to assorted sociology, psychology, and human sexuality classes, handle tough situations with the police, pass out flyers at the bars, organize

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rallies, parades, marches, demonstrations, dances, and festivals, sell tickets and clean up after all of it, and try to get people sympathetic to our cause elected to public office. The list of things to do is endless and the supply of volunteers never enough, but somehow our community manages to keep moving forward.

In the process, leaders emerge. These are people who are able to motivate others to action. They have ideas and the courage to express them. They are out of the closet and are willing to accept the risk of making themselves a target of criticism—or worse. They are not always right and not always wrong. But, they put themselves out there and do it anyway.

This is how we “elect” our leaders. It’s really not that different from the normal democratic process. It all depends on whether or not we decide to get involved and “vote.” If we choose, instead, to spend our time at home or developing a career or spending time socializing with our friends, that’s fine; but, we have to accept the fact that, in doing so, we have taken ourselves out of the process and our voices will not be heard.

I guess the bottom line is, if you feel someone is not speaking for you and you want your views heard, you have a responsibility to speak for yourself. Choosing not to speak or not to get involved is a choice we make that allows others to decide for us who will speak, who will lead, and what our agenda will be for the future.

There is another side to this, of course. People who choose to get involved and accept positions of leadership have a responsibility to the community to represent us in a dignified and appropriate manner. We should be able to demonstrate, through our leaders, what it is we expect to have for ourselves. Respecting the civil rights of others and understanding that we are not asking for any special treatment (just the same rights as heterosexuals) is central to the advancement of the lesbian and gay movement. No matter how much we might like it to be otherwise, we are a less powerful group asking and demanding respect for our human rights from a more powerful group who doesn’t really want to give them to us. There are ways to go about this thing and ways not to. Our leaders have a responsibility to know the difference.

I think the most important thing about this question of who speaks for us is that those who do deserve our support. Their voices allow others to hide quietly in their closets until it’s safe for them to come out. If we disagree with our “unelected” leaders, we need to tell them why. For that matter, we might encourage and support them by telling them when we agree. This is our pseudo-representative form of government. It’s what we’ve got to work with, and it takes our participation to make it speak for us.



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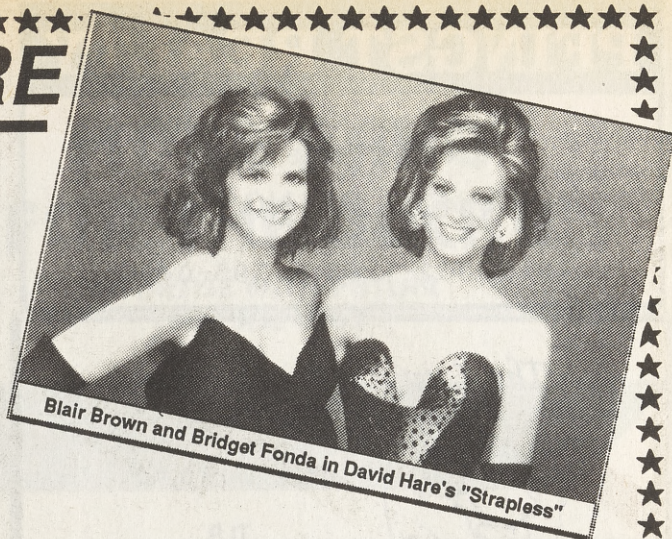
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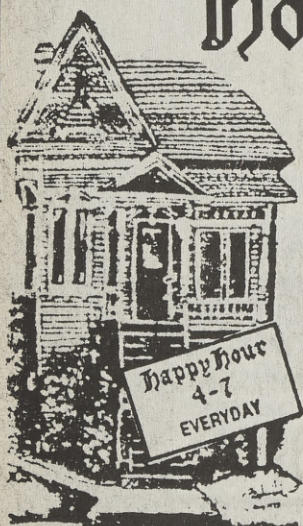
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## MADAM X

Hola, dahling! Como estas? You didn't know the good madam is bilingual, did you? Now don't be judgemental. There's nothing wrong with it. Plenty of people in the world are bilingual dear. The question now is, donde es el dinero? That's something we all want to know. Even Donald Trump! Dinero, dinero, dinero. When will we ever have enough dinero (money)? That's about like asking, "When will we ever have enough air?" As long as we keep breathing, we will need more air. As long as we keep living, we will need more dinero. We finally get enough when we no longer need it. Oh well.

There will be a tendency in September to worry and be critical. Turn the worry into concern and take positive action to find solutions. Try to keep the criticism constructive. Although there is plenty of room for improvement in all of our lives dear, there's no reason to be verbally destructive or abusive. "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy," said Jesus.

There will be a greater emphasis this month on research, study, analysis, and reports.

Intellectualism and even skepticism will be accentuated. I encourage intellectual stimulation and development. I also think it is better to be skeptical rather than gullible. However, there is much more to life than the human intellect, and too much skepticism can prevent the acquisition of valuable knowledge.

The subject of work will get special attention at this time. Yes dahling, I know that work is a four letter word. But earn is a four letter word, and so is life. Earn life. Work and earn a living, if possible. You really don't have to work in a nightmare job from hell. There are so many jobs a person could do. If you feel trapped, consider the possibility that you could be under the spell of an illusion. You may have more marketable skills than you realize. There may be hundreds of jobs you could do. Some of them might even be fun! Good is another four letter word and so is okay. You could have a good, okay job and earn a living. Work doesn't have to be an appalling experience, although it often is!

Perfectionism is a thirteen letter word (Coincidence?) used to describe an obsession with the unrealistic goal of achieving impossible results. Working to make improvements if fine. Expecting anything or anyone to be perfect is about like expecting to find a pot of gold at the end of a rainbow. You won't even find the end of a rainbow, much less a gold filled pot. Having realistic expectations is the sensible way to be. It can also prevent many disappointments.

Animals will be in the spotlight this month. Do you have cats, dogs, birds, horses, pigs, monkeys, alligators, raccoons or other pets? Maybe you can find an animal to love and enjoy.



I love animals, dahling, and they love me too! They are more than just critters. They are wonderful beings who happen to be far smarter than most humans seem to think they are.

I once had a beautiful brown and white cat named Glenda, whom I named after the good witch of the North in The Wizard of Oz. She had two black cat boyfriends with whom she played rather passionately right out in the middle of the road. Glenda got pregnant. When her first kitten was born she acted frightened and even ran away from it. She seemed to understand when I explained that her kitten needed her and she would be a good mother. She accepted her responsibility, returned to the first-born kitten, and took proper care of it. She went on to give birth to several more kittens, including two gorgeous calicos. As I had told her, she did in fact become a good mother. I don't know what ever happened to Glenda's two handsome black cat boyfriends. Maybe they ran off together...

This is a good month to get serious about health and nutrition. There are many excellent books in libraries about health. There is a very good book by Ronna Fay Jevne, Ph.D., and Alexander Levitan, MD. Their book is called, NO TIME FOR NONSENSE. It is a very good book, especially for the seriously ill.

Humor is being taken more seriously these days by the medical professionals. Laughter can help people maintain good health and recover or cope more effectively with major health problems. The comedians of today may become the doctors of tomorrow. But if I ever need brain surgery, I sure hope Carol Burnett doesn't perform the operation. She might drop the brain, pick it up, and stick it back inside my head, UPSIDE DOWN. It could permanently change my whole outlook on life. I might think the floor was the ceiling. Imagine trying to dance after that!

Have a mahvelous and safe September, DAHLING!

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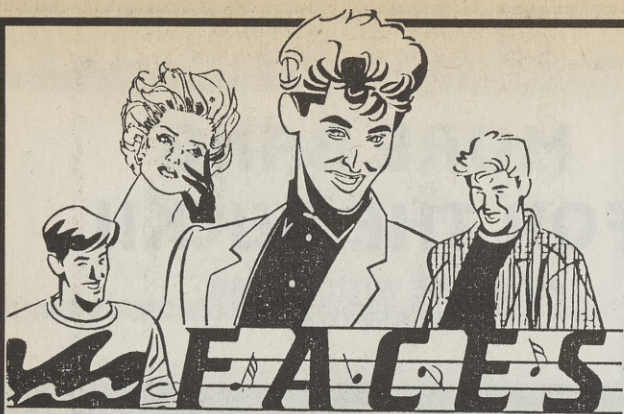
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# Love Limbo

By Cat Comiskey

Many of us are trapped in a passion purgatory. While the young thrive off of the energy of a new romance, we wander the love lands hoping for an intimate fix. Unfortunately, after a few soured romances we're not as easily rapt into the furious mix of red roses and seduction. Objectivity settles in our bones. We are no longer enslaved by our ever-changing glandular action. We are, however, easily sucked into mundane, daily matters. Writing out our favorite dishes on recipe cards, keeping our dryer lint-free, and Sally Jessy Raphael all become integral parts of our day.

And later in this life, we realize that eternal bliss is but a biblical concept. Just when we thought our relationship was well-rooted, up comes some strange hormone that drives Mr. or Ms. Right immediately back into the dating pool. A stack of unpaid phone bills and a handful of photos is the meager aftermath of this love gone dry. To counter, we shift our focus from clandestine brunches and silly little poems to mortgages and mutual funds. We swap some romance for greater capital gains and for some strange reason feel all of these personal voids. Welcome to passion purgatory...where the romantically rejected stay to pay their love dues. This is a dangerous, stale place to exist and a prompt exodus is the best way to salvage out any potential for future passions. But first, we must identify those of you who linger in this love limbo. If any two of the following sound familiar to you, you desperately need to lift yourself to a higher state of romantic consciousness...

You haven't listened to your Johnny Mathis album in the last six months.

You think THIRTYSOMETHING is corny and overdramatized.

Watching the 6:00 news and defrosting the freezer is your idea of an elegant evening.

You don't know why people spend so much time and energy on seeking out and securing a lover when a little masturbation or a good vibrator can do the job just as well.

You leave town on Valentine's Day.

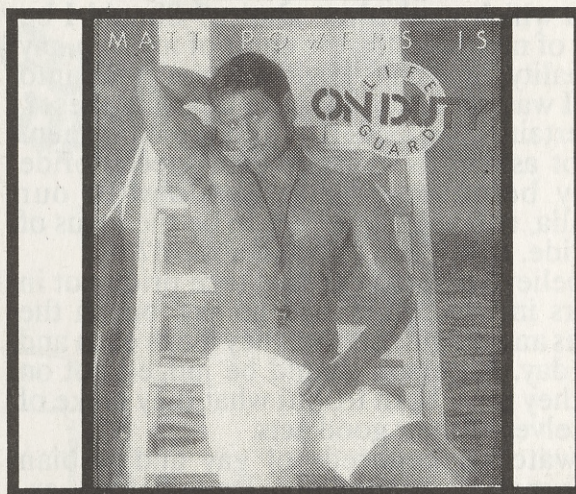
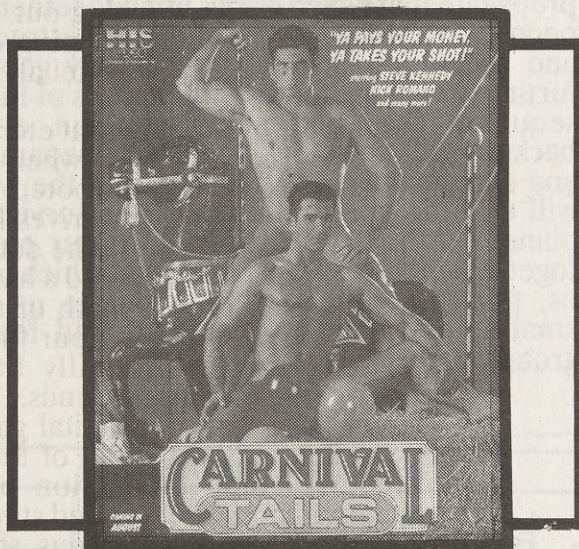
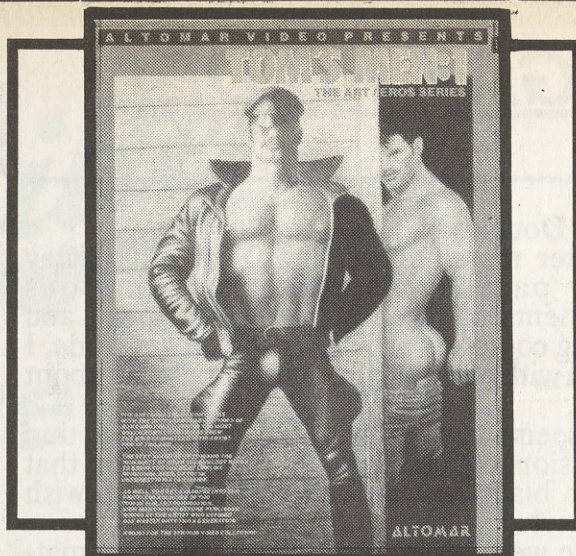
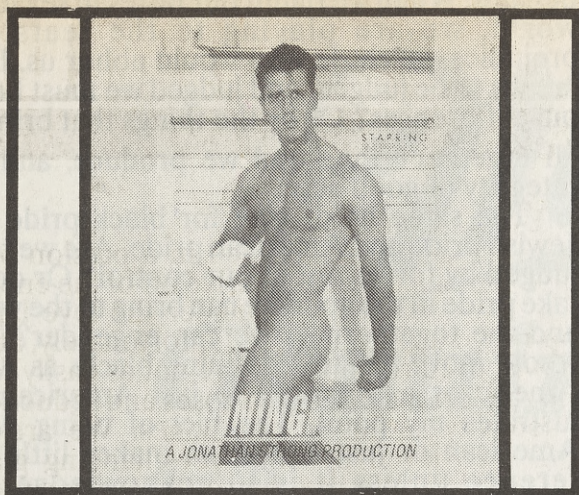
You think a Venetian gondola is a device used to open and close window blinds.

You settle for overprocessed, highly American cuisine instead of opting for more romantic Mediterranean or European dishes.

Your last floral purchase was a funeral arrangement.

You wear neutral, cotton clothing instead of more passionate, silky, vivid apparel.





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# GAY PRIDE!

By Douglas N. Lewis

After marching in New York City's Gay Pride parade, listening to numerous proponents of the gay movement speak and reading countless articles based on gay pride, I am left with one nagging question: Proud about what?

It seems to me that there is a misdirection of passion concerning gay pride, or for that matter black pride, American pride, Jewish pride, etc.

Are we to take some special pride in matters in which we had no choice? Should I be proud of my sexuality, the color of my skin, my nationality or what religion I was born into when I was not asked to share in any of these?

Certainly the leaders of the gay movement are not asking us to take some special pride simply because of what we do with our genitalia, and yet that seems to be the focus of gay pride. Don't you find this absurd?

I believe a person should take pride not in matters in which they had no say, but in the choices and judgments that they make each and every day. A person should be judged not on what they were born to, but what they make of themselves — their good acts.

I watched hundreds of gay and lesbian people marching in the Gay Pride Parade, exposing their bodies and wearing their preferences in sexuality as badges of pride (leather men, S&M accoutrements, brandishing sex toys, etc.). This strikes me as being very misguided. I am all for the free and open expression of ideas of ways of living, but we defeat our own purposes by taking some special pride in things that are not public domain and never were meant to be.

I felt a swelling in my heart when the many and varied AIDS organizations marched before me, and I had good reason to feel pride. These organizations have taken a mighty foe and gone up against it with courage, compassion and have wrenched some victory from the jaws of death itself. This is cause for pride. Not the fact that you prefer sex in bondage and with members of the same sex.

I will forever defend a person's right to express themselves in any way they choose. But sooner or later the gay community is going to have to realize that we do ourselves a disservice by constantly playing to the definitions of the straight world. Our leaders for the most part recognize that we, as a community, must be viewed as more than simply sexual beings. That we are defined by more than what we do with our bodies. We must be judged by our abilities

as talented, intelligent and PRODUCTIVE persons. When we flaunt our tastes in sex to the world, we are playing to the fears and prejudices of those who would abhor us. How are we to be judged, and judged we must be, by our differences? Or by the things that bring us all together — the good we produce, and the integrity of good acts.

The same holds true for black pride and Jewish pride and American pride. Are we to be judged by forces out of our control? Or do we take pride in the good we can bring to the world and the togetherness we can engender? This whole move towards defining blacks as Afro-Americans as opposed to just Americans illustrates my point. The fact of being Afro-American or just American makes little difference unless it is to acknowledge and propagate that which brings us all together as a people. In a world gone mad with destruction and accusation, it does no one any good to further divide ourselves with matters of inconsequence (i.e., nationality, religion, ethnic background, sexuality, etc.). The separatism and fractiousness that is sweeping the world will do little good in terms of the survival of planet Earth. Let's take pride in our pulling together, in the recognition of that which binds us, not that which would separate us into smaller and smaller insulated and fearful groups.

## PHOTO TIPS FOR TRAVELERS

by Rick Grossman

Film varies from one country to another, even the same brand. Stock up before leaving. And it's always been my experience that I need twice what I expect — take lots. You can always store your unused film in the freezer. (Give it an hour to thaw out before using.)

Despite what the airlines say, the x-rays CAN affect your film — especially high speed film, or after multiple x-rays. A lead-lined film

## TO THE EDITOR:

Enclosed is a copy of the receipt from the AIDS Foundation director for a donation of \$219 which was collected at Josephs Town and Country on Saturday, June 23rd when Lady Garnet (producer) and Leonard Harris (co-producer) of the Sacramento Do Cats started doing a show once a month for different charities. We would appreciate your putting this in your paper for public knowledge as to where all moneys raised went.

Respectfully yours,  
Lady Garnet



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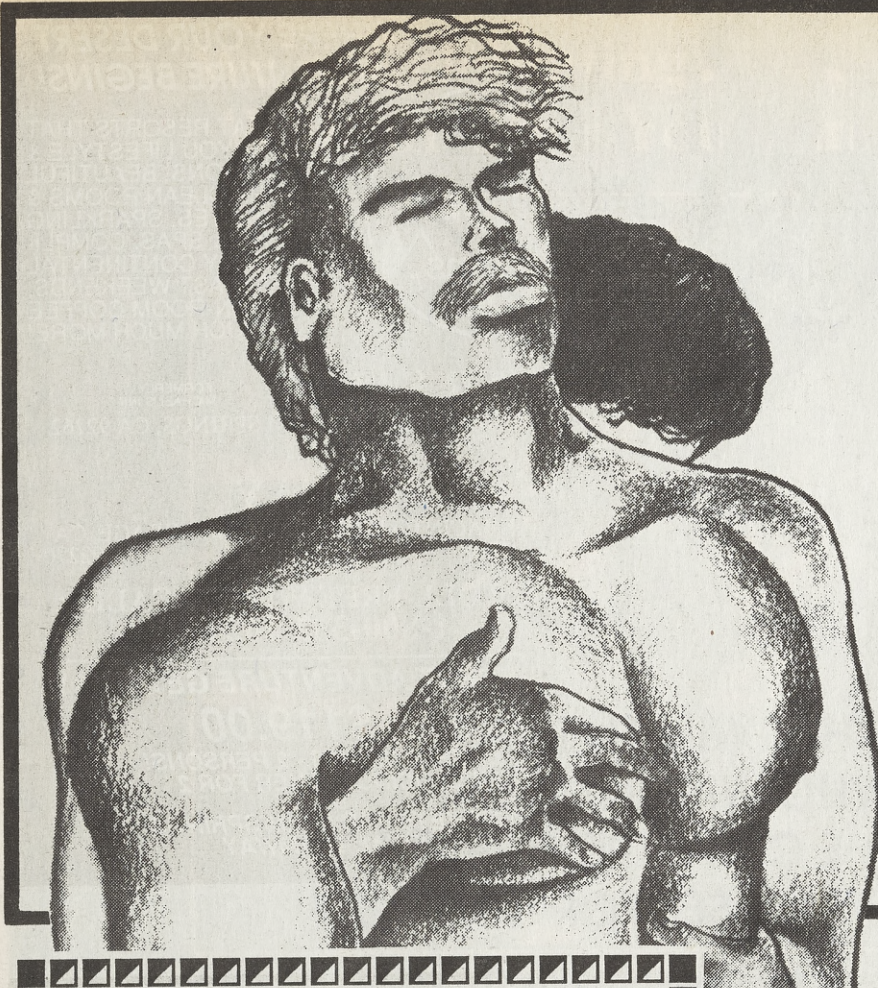
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# ASK THE VET



## FIV — Feline Immunodeficiency Virus by Becky Rhoades, DVM

In 1987, a virus similar to one that causes AIDS was identified in cats. After several years of testing, Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV), has proven to be widespread among the cat population and is a significant danger to our feline friends because of the similar clinical signs to that of its human counterpart: Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV). It is a feline specific disease and poses no threat to humans.

FIV is transmitted from cat to cat. Casual contact has proven not to be enough (similar to HIV) to transmit the disease. One essential mode of transmission has proven to be cat bites. Therefore, the largest population of cats at risk are the free-roaming household pet, strays or wild cats. Most house cats may spat but rarely get into a genuine biting fight where the virus can be delivered into the bloodstream.

FIV is present in the saliva and the blood. Studies have shown that tomcats are the most common to become infected due to their fighting behavior. Casual, nonaggressive contact such as common drinking bowls or mutual grooming has not appeared to be an efficient route of infection. Sexual transmission has never been demonstrated.

Clinical signs include transient fever, lower white blood cell count, generalized swelling of the lymph nodes, chronic infections of the mouth all of which can lead to weight loss and debilitation. Chronic skin infections, persistent diarrhea, abortion and seizures are some additional uncommon clinical signs. However, the general trend is downward with progressive weight loss and severe wasting.

FIV itself cannot be treated. The secondary bacterial and fungal infections are managed with appropriate medications, but the recurrence rate is high. Supportive therapy is necessary in the debilitated animal. AZT appears to have greater side effects in the cat and has proven to be impractical.

Because there is no current treatment, attention must focus on preventing spread of the disease. Cat owners can protect their cats by preventing contact with potentially infected cats. Cats kept indoors exclusively are most unlikely to be infected. There is a rapid in-office test that can be performed by your veterinarian to see if your cat may have been exposed. At this time, there is no preventative vaccination. Evidence indicates that FIV has been around since at least 1969. It will be a long process in developing a cure for FIV, but because of the similarity with HIV, whatever is learned about one disease will likely benefit the other.

## HOROSCOPE



By Dr. Pat Larr  
Virgo the Virgin

The vibes are right. Don't hesitate anymore. He wants you. You want him. The stars say go for it!

Libra the Balance

When was the last time you felt like this?

Yes, you're in love again. Enjoy!

Scorpio the Scorpion

Stop being such a witch with a capital "B".

This isn't your time of the month. Stop acting like it.

Sagittarius the Archer

Back to school? When will you ever learn.

This semester you'll find someone to give you lessons after class.

Capricorn the Goat

Bigger and better things are on the horizon.

Take stock of your priorities. Maybe less is more.

Aquarius the Water Bearer

Another pretty face turns your head. When will you ever learn? This month wear red.

Pisces the Fish

Ready to make the grade? This semester someone older helps you pass with flying colors.

Aries the Ram

The autumn leaves bring the breezes that make you sway to and fro. And you know how you like to swing!

Taurus the Bull

And you say nobody loves you. This month they're all after you. Don't say you weren't warned.

Gemini the Twins

Glad it's fall? Yeah, black leather feels a lot more comfortable (on or off) when the temperature is low.

Cancer the Crab

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First, any religion worth a hoot creates in its followers strong otional convictions about how one ought to live. My revulsion /ard murder and violence is a direct result of my own deep and ding religious conviction that humans are made in the image God and deserve to be treated with respect. If my religion did : create in me a strong sense of right and wrong, I would have onfess it a waste of time and abandon it.

Second, government is the legitimate use of coercion to nge people's behavior. Nobody should rob a bank because k robbery is immoral; since that unfortunately is not a good ough reason for some people, the state quite legitimately tells m that they also shouldn't rob banks because they will go to son if they do. The reason laws against bank robbery are itimate has nothing to do with religious morality; rather, it is

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because there is also a secular, non-religious purpose to robbery laws.

Now, since people tend to feel strongly (and rightfully so) about their religious values, and since humans have never been all that great at minding their own business, it is only natural that certain elements are going to say: Let's use the coercive power of the state to force people to live like my religion says they should. If we cannot persuade people by appeals to faith and reason to live a certain way, then let's use force of arms.

Indeed, the most appropriate current illustration of this in the United States is the anti-abortion movement. Having failed, in the free market of ideas, to persuade 25 million American women that abortion is immoral, the anti-abortion movement is now bidding to impose its value system by force. They don't seem to care that nobody is forcing them to have abortions against their will, and if they believe abortion to be sinful they can simply refrain from having one. The goal is to require every woman in America to bow in submission to their religious views, whether or not those women agree with those views. Ditto prayer in schools: it isn't enough that their children pray; they think everybody else's children ought to be required to pray as well.

Now, I know, many anti-abortion advocates would argue that abortion is murder and should be criminalized as such. However, that conviction flows from theology.

From the standpoint of religion, the danger is clear: religion only works if someone subscribes to its tenets of one's own free will. Trying to impose religion, and its values, by force of arms cheapens religion and makes a mockery of the premise found in every religion that God gave humans free will.

But from the standpoint of the state, the danger is much more profound. History provides us with ample illustrations of what happens when religion runs the government. When it happens in Judaism, we get the slaughter of the Canaanites. When it happens in Christianity, we get the Inquisition and the Crusades.

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d sending it to the local paper with a caption that reads GAY HOMOPHOBES DEMANDS THE RIGHT TO BE A HOMO (but only in the privacy of his own room). Gee, won't your enlightened conservatives let you do that? Not even if you spend the rest of your time openly advocating the enforcement of sodomy laws and trying to get an ordinance passed restricting gay people to certain jobs, accommodations and housing?

I don't understand why people in the closet always tell us about this privacy thing. What do you think we do when we're not running around making it more difficult for people like you? Meet in a parking lot and decide which one of your bedrooms we're going to bug this week? Trust me. We have any number of other things to worry about. So if you have to spout off about privacy, go tell it to a judge. Preferably one sitting on the Supreme Court. Better yet, stop by the office of any number of your Republican senators. Or go to Georgia. There's a man named Hardwick who would love to hear your views on the subject.

And while you're at it, you should consider writing to Virginia Apuzzo and Harvey Fierstein about the harm being done by all

this openly gay stuff. I'm sure once you explained to them that normal people would allow us to live (under certain conditions) if we just stopped being so PUBLIC, they'd crawl quietly back to their closets and start writing about REAL issues like the terrible way the press treated Dan Quayle during the campaign and how those slanderous attempts to portray Liberace as a homosexual were really part of a communist plot to take over the world. Hell, everyone knows Mrs. Gorbachev is personally funding ACT UP. She got the idea from Nancy Reagan's Just Say No campaign.

Get a grip on yourself. I hardly think major corporations send their people into local gay bars in order to ferret out the undesirables. Well, maybe some like MCI or Kelloggs do. But if you see someone you know from work, they're probably just as confused as you are.

Finally, there is no need for you to hide behind the dog-food display if you happen to spot one of us at the grocery store. Believe me, we will not, as you so delicately put it, EXPOSE you. We are just as concerned as you that as few people as possible know that you are REALLY HOMOSEXUAL, not merely confused. This may be difficult for you to comprehend, but we're a thousand times more embarrassed by you than you are by us. After all, we do have some pride.

Come to think of it, that's what this is all about. So, come on. Do me a favor. Pick someone else out of the crowd. Or go soak your head in your beer. But whatever you do, keep your misguided opinions to yourself. If you won't help us by standing up, at least do us the favor of shutting up.

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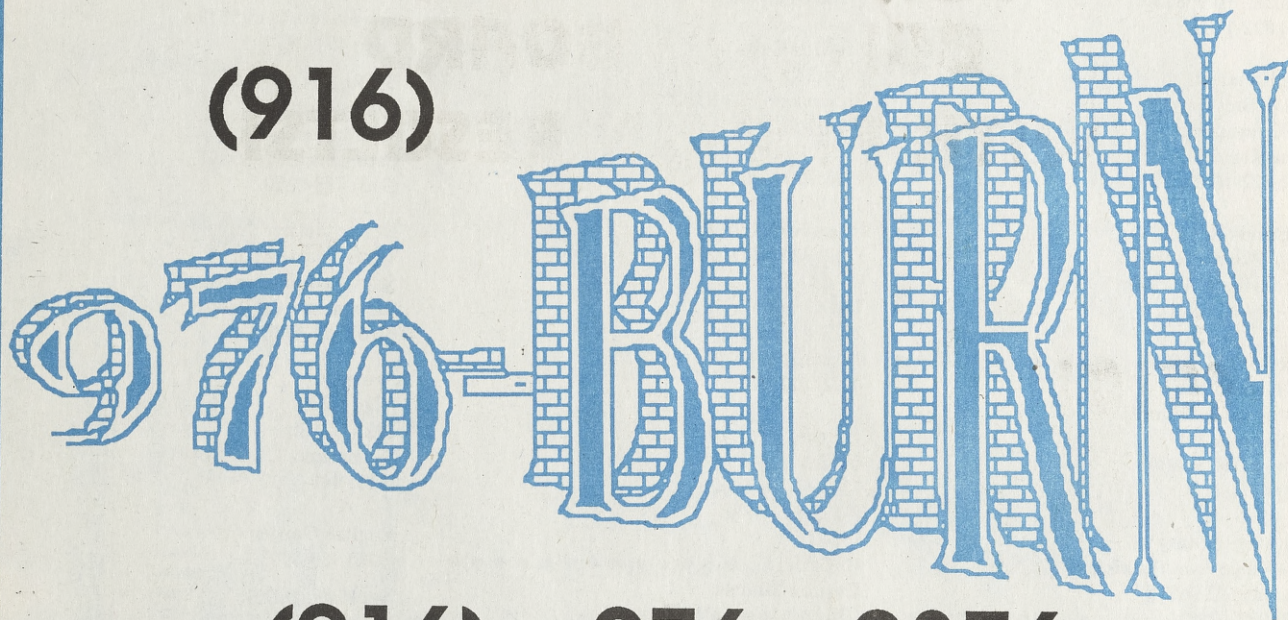
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**WOULD LIKE TO** meet a real person, someone who has graduated high school mentality, someone not into making grand entrances into cliky bar groups, but not so old that we retire to front porch rocking chairs. I am a GWM 26, 150#, 5'8", blond, blue eyed person interested in meeting you. If you are out there 26-36, fit the above description and have sincere interest such as camping, travel, long drives, talks, and a good sense of humor, then please write to "Mr. Optimistic" & tell me about yourself. Anxiously awaiting your reply. Dave, 3202 Doroteo Wy, Sacramento, CA 95833. [09PL]

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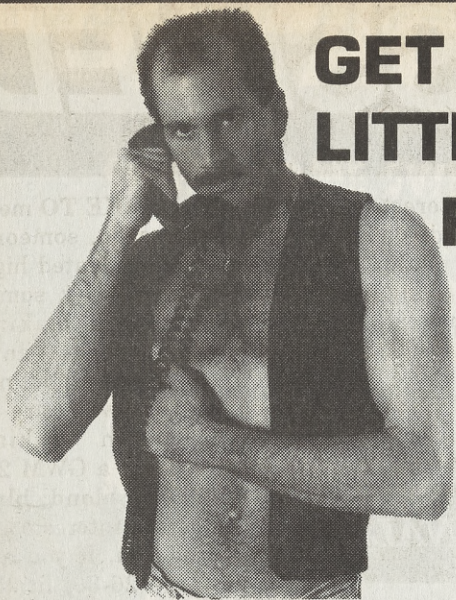
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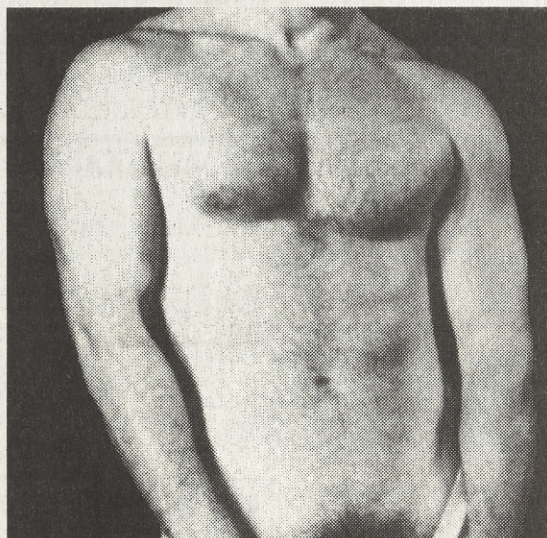
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**UNDER 30 BONDAGE** bottom wanted by WM 50. Write G.H., 19N. Sierra #183, Reno, NV 89501. [010PL]

**LADIES**, I'm open for action. Sparks will fly. Make me center of attraction including hugs and kisses. Sincere, compatible, or similar. Write: Sweetness, PO Box 5022, Modesto, CA 95352. [15PL]

**HAWAIIAN:** Latin looking, into light leather, 5'8", 40, blk/brn, beard, Greek-P. Looking for GWM, 18-30, for friend/lover: Call (808) 926-6111 after 5 PM (HAWAII TIME). [012PL]

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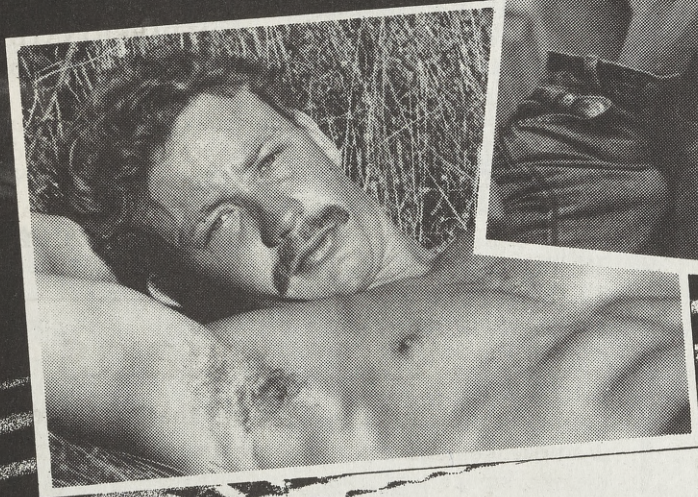
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